

# Great Lakes Fishery Trust ANNUAL REPORT 2000

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**MISSION:** The mission of the Great Lakes Fishery Trust is to provide funding to enhance, protect and rehabilitate the Great Lakes fishery. The trust will manage its resources to compensate for the lost use and enjoyment of the Lake Michigan fishery resulting from the operation of the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant.

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▶ GLFT BACKGROUND	GREAT LAKES FISHERY TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES
▶ ON THE HORIZON	K.L. Cool, Chairman, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Tim Eder, National Wildlife Federation
▶ 2000 FUNDED PROJECTS	Jennifer M. Granholm, Michigan Attorney General, represented by James Riley, Assistant Attorney General
▶ PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS	James Goodheart, Michigan United Conservation Clubs Christine Mitchell, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
▶ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	Charles Wooley, U.S. Department of the Interior
▶ 2000 FINANCIAL REPORT	PROVISIONAL TRUSTEES Bill Parsons, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Kevin Willis, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY TEAM Randy Claramunt, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians Douglas Denison, National Wildlife Federation Tom Gorenflo, Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority Sharon Hanshue, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Mark Holey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service P. Brad Latvaitis, Consumers Energy Archie Martell, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Erik Olsen, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Robert Reider, Co-chair, The Detroit Edison Company Brandon Schroeder, Michigan United Conservation Clubs Kelley Smith, Co-Chair, Michigan Department of Natural Resources William Taylor, Michigan State University CONTRACTED STAFF (Public Sector Consultants, Inc.) Trust Managers, Jack Bails & William Rustem Assistant Trust Managers, Mark Coscarelli, Holly Madill, & Julie Metty

Account Manager, Karie Bacon

Former Staff

Assistant Trust Managers, J. Chris Monsma & Kelly Reynolds Stewart

Account Managers, Carol Barish & Pamela Sanders

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In 2000, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust recognized former staff members, consultants, and board members for their service to the trust. The trust also acknowledged the contributions of the peer review panel who play a key role in assisting the trust with its evaluation of research proposals. The following individuals were recognized by the GLFT Board of Directors for their outstanding service:

Al Colby - Little Traverse Bands of Odawa Indians, former board member

Randy L. Eshenroder - Research Peer Review Panel, fisheries science advisor

Lee E. Gotcher - GLFT Lands Corporation, lands specialist

Joseph H. Kutkuhn, Ph.D. - Research Peer Review Panel, fisheries science advisor

J. Chris Monsma - Public Sector Consultants, Inc., former staff

Dianne Russel - Institute for Conservation Leadership, strategic planning counsel

Roy A. Stein, Ph.D. - Research Peer Review Panel, fisheries science advisor

Kelly Reynolds Stewart - Public Sector Consultants, former staff

Howard A. Tanner, Ph.D. - Research Peer Review Panel, fisheries science advisor

William W. Taylor, Ph.D. - Research Peer Review Panel, Chair

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The Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT or trust) is a private charitable foundation. Since its creation in April of 1996, it has awarded over \$12 million in grants for 47 projects as mitigation for fish losses that occur at the Ludington Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility jointly owned by Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison. As part of the court settlement that created the GLFT, the utilities provided five million dollars and 10,600 acres of land for fish losses that occurred prior to the settlement to capitalize the trust. In addition, the utilities provide compensation for continuing fish losses of approximately two and a half million dollars each year. The GLFT invests the compensation payments and proceeds from land sales to support the operation of the trust and its grant programs.



Grant funds are awarded for projects in five categories:

- Education relating to the Great Lakes fishery, targeting information to help build stewardship for a sustainable fishery
- Protection and restoration of Great Lakes fishery habitat, including Great Lakes tributaries
- Research on the Great Lakes fishery, with special emphasis on enhancing the management of the fishery and rehabilitating lake trout and lake sturgeon populations
- Fishing access development for shore based angling and tribal fishing access, including land acquisition and site enhancement
- Special projects that are consistent with the mission of the GLFT

Since 1996, the GLFT has funded twenty fishing access projects, six education projects, eighteen fishery research projects, two scientific symposia related to restoration of lake sturgeon, and two habitat restoration/protection projects on the Muskegon River.

The trust has used a variety of approaches to solicit proposals for funding. Request for pre-proposals are sent to potentially interested parties around the Great Lakes via mail, email, and web-based listservs. On-line applications will be available in the near future. In

addition to these conventional proposal solicitation methods, the GLFT continues to explore new and innovative ways to encourage creative and collaborative projects. The following approaches have been used in the past:

- Under guidance from its Scientific Advisory Team, the trust has established fisheries research thematic areas that focus on recruitment and fish health. While new research themes are under consideration, the two original focus areas were purposefully adopted for a specified period of time to encourage capacity building at research institutions.
- The application process for the access category is now open year-long with two granting dates.
- The GLFT provided support for seminars where researchers and fisheries managers developed recommendations on priority research topics. These topics were then used by the trust to solicit grant proposals. A sturgeon restoration conference sponsored by



the trust was used to solicit projects for funding in 2000.

- An assessment of fisheries education needs is underway and will be used to develop a strategic plan to guide future grantmaking in this category. Targeted, education grant solicitations are planned for the end of 2001.
- The trust has also teamed with other grant makers to encourage a holistic, ecological approach to the management of Great Lakes tributary watersheds through its "River Initiative."
- Fishery management and research priorities identified under the auspices of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission have provided guidance for grant programs of the trust.
- The GLFT has also funded several special projects that the board determined were unique opportunities to contribute to enhancement of the Great Lakes fisheries.

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The emphasis during the first three years of the GLFT was on the mechanics of establishing the trust, including contracting for staff services; establishing operating procedures; initial grant solicitation, selection, and management; and investment planning. In 1999, the GLFT developed an updated strategic plan that established goals for each grant category, specific objectives, action steps, and benchmarks for measuring progress. The following three special programs were initiated in 2000 to reflect the updated priorities of the trust.



### Muskegon River Watershed Initiative

The GLFT proposed in its updated strategy to select a large Michigan river system tributary to Lake Michigan for intensive habitat restoration and protection. The purpose of the "River Initiative" is to create a model approach to integrated ecosystem fishery-habitat management. The GLFT and its Scientific Advisory Team (SAT) assessed the availability of information and the opportunities to make significant improvements in four major watersheds tributary to Lake Michigan. The Muskegon River watershed was selected for a special study to determine the capacity of existing organizations within the watershed to implement such a model program. The study confirmed that there was indeed substantial local interest, organizational structure, and capacity to undertake this model river initiative in the Muskegon River watershed.

The GLFT was joined in its "River Initiative" by the Wege Foundation, which sponsored a weeklong conference on the Muskegon River watershed. The conference brought together university researchers from throughout the state and local stakeholders to identify key information and research needs. Other foundations have joined the GLFT and the Wege Foundation in evaluating and funding proposals that have emanated from this unique conference. Several major projects have already been funded and are expected to be underway in 2001. The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, a local broad-based stakeholders group, has received joint funding from the trust and the Wege Foundation for staff to help guide the research efforts and develop specific projects that reflect the research findings on how best to enhance and protect the river ecosystem.

### Lake Sturgeon Research Funding

In June of 2000, the GLFT sponsored a workshop on lake sturgeon restoration and management in the Great Lakes. Researchers from across the country attended and helped identify research and information gaps. The results of the workshop helped define the GLFT's funding priorities for lake sturgeon. The priorities for restoration in the Lake Michigan basin included: literature review and other research to document historical lake sturgeon distribution; inventory of barriers that currently limit the movement of sturgeon in important river systems; and field investigations to document current distribution and abundance. Throughout the Great Lakes basin, the lake sturgeon restoration priorities include development of innovative survey methods to provide quick, standardized status assessments; genetic research to help identify potential donor stocks for reintroductions; and riverine habitat analysis to establish the requirements and utilization by larvae, juveniles, and spawning adults. Targeted requests for proposals for lake sturgeon restoration projects, consistent with the priorities established at the workshop, were distributed by the GLFT in late 2000. New sturgeon restoration projects funded by the GLFT are expected to be underway in 2001.

Great Lakes Fisheries Education Assessment

The updated GLFT Strategic Plan recognized the need to thoroughly assess the educational materials available and current gaps in information and/or delivery systems for informing the public about the Great Lakes fishery. In 2000, a directed grant request for proposals to complete such an assessment and provide assistance in the development of a strategic education grant funding plan for the trust was issued. The GLFT funded a joint effort through the University of Michigan and Ohio State University. This effort is underway and will be completed by August of 2001. Once it is completed, the GLFT intends to solicit education proposals to implement the recommendations of the strategic education plan developed as a result of the assessment.

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Michigan United Conservation Club / Michigan Out-of-Doors Public Television Show - \$30,000  
Michigan Out-of-Doors will produce an educational video about the GLFT and its mission. The video will provide viewers with a history of the trust as well as describe granting areas by showcasing funded projects.

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Great Lakes Fisheries Education Assessment and Summary of Needs - University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment - \$79,107

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The GLFT decided to suspend its grants for new education projects until it could determine how funding would best further education on Great Lakes fishery-related topics. This one-year project will provide the answer to that question. It will assess the needs for fisheries education in order to help the Great Lakes Fishery Trust target funds where they will be most effective.

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Project Fish! - Michigan State University - \$46,680

Few efforts are more important to the future of the Great Lakes than encouraging our youth to be good stewards of the Great Lakes. This project is an extension of funding to develop curriculum materials and train teachers and mentors to teach children and adults about the Great Lakes fishery. The curriculum uses hands-on activities such as building gear and tackle and learning fishing techniques to engage students in learning about the elements required to sustain aquatic ecosystems.

RESEARCH  
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Energy Dynamics of Lake Michigan Chinook Salmon - Michigan State University - \$265,426

Lake Michigan fishery managers seek reliable indicators of nutritional stress in chinook salmon populations. This project will collect wild-ranging chinook salmon from Lake Michigan and measure various indicators of their nutritional state in the spring and fall over a three-year period. This study will determine which indicators provide the best measure of stress, and determine the number of fish samples needed to provide an adequate estimate of stress on the population. The study will also enhance knowledge of the causes of stress in Great Lakes chinook salmon.

Interactive Role of Transport and Foraging Success in the Determination of Growth Variability for Larval Yellow Perch in Southern Lake Michigan - North Carolina State University - \$104,340

This two-year project will determine the importance of larval yellow perch being transported out of productive near shore areas of Lake Michigan and whether offshore transport inhibits larval growth and increases the probability of mortality. Effects of Egg and Fry Predators on Lake Trout Recruitment in Lake Michigan - Environment Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans - \$346,400 This project will evaluate egg, fry, and predator abundance at



spawning reefs in northeastern Lake Michigan over three years, using egg seeding, alewife exclosures, and laboratory experiments to assess the current effect of predation on recruitment.

Evaluation of Cartilage-Bone Biopsy and Polymerase Chain Reaction Procedures for Nonlethal Detection of *Myxobolus cerebralis* in Rainbow Trout from the Great Lakes region - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - \$22,232

This one-year study will validate a nonlethal test for whirling disease in salmonids, thereby preventing the unnecessary sacrifice of suspect hatchery and feral fish, valuable broodstock, and threatened and endangered species.

Dynamics of Alewife Recruitment Variability in Lake Michigan - University of Michigan - \$358,456

Using field studies and historical data, this three-year project will determine factors affecting alewife abundance, growth, and survival. Natural chemical tracers present in alewife ear bones will be used to determine alewife environmental histories and identify which habitats are producing the most survivors. Statistical models will be developed, for use by fisheries managers, to predict alewife survival and abundance.



Exotic Invertebrates, Food Web Disruption, and Lost Fish Production - Great Lakes Fishery Commission - \$12,000

During the last century, the invasion of exotic fish species in the Great Lakes changed upper-end food webs. In the last fifteen years, another wave of exotic species has invaded the Great Lakes, only this time they are invertebrates (e.g. zebra mussels, quagga mussels, *Bythotrephes*). These new invaders are changing the food web at lower trophic levels. This study seeks to understand the new implications of food web dynamics by identifying the proximate mechanisms and processes through which these recently introduced invertebrates disrupt food webs; determining how these mechanisms are affected by ecosystem factors; and forecasting how food webs in both the lower and upper Great Lakes will look when new invertebrate colonization is complete.

Investigations into the Causes of Thiamine Deficiency in Great Lakes Salmonids and the Effects of Low Thiamine on Swim-up Fry Behavior - U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division - \$465,000

This project is an extension of funding to understand and prevent death in Great Lakes salmon and trout from Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS). Scientists believe this disease is caused by a deficiency in thiamine (vitamin B1). The first phase of the project developed a method to screen hatchery fish for thiamine deficiencies and investigate the role of thiaminase in the disease development process. The extension will focus efforts on disseminating information learned for the management of forage fish, such as alewife, to minimize thiamine-related loss of lake trout, and coho and chinook salmon. In addition, it will determine if neurological and other abnormalities in thiamine deficient fry contribute to the observed recruitment failure in Lake Michigan lake trout populations.



**ACCESS**  
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Arcadia Barrier Free Children's Fishing Dock Enhancement Project - Arcadia Charter Township - \$14,880

A barrier free children's fishing dock was installed on the shore of Arcadia Lake near Arcadia in 1997. Through this one-season project, Arcadia will extend that dock by 40 feet into the lake to enhance deep water fishing opportunities.

Betsie Valley Trail-Fishing Bridge - Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council - \$75,000

This one-year project will construct a new walkway/fishing bridge. This bridge will provide new shore-based, universally accessible, fishing access to the Betsie River.

Riverside Park Improvement - City of Detroit - \$545,000

The project will revitalize Riverside Park by creating, redesigning, or enhancing a number of angling amenities along the Detroit River. Key portions of this project including redesigning and restoring the seawall; creating a river walk designed for enhanced use by anglers; redesigning and improving driveways and parking to facilitate access to the shore; installing shelters and restroom facilities; upgrading surface amenities, lighting, and security; and providing walkways to link the park to the Southeast Michigan Greenways System.

**Harbor Drive Angler Fishing Access - City of Menominee - \$172,000**

The city will construct a steel frame walkway, which will connect to a former train/car ferry dock. This walkway will serve as a fishing site with direct access to Lake Michigan and will also provide pedestrian access to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers pier for fishing. The entire project will be handicapped accessible.



**Village of Suttons Bay Access Fishing Pier - Village of Suttons Bay - \$180,000**

This project will install a fishing pier to an historic coal dock property, now the Village Municipal Marina. It will enhance the use and enjoyment of all local and tourist shore-based anglers.

**Montague Fishing Bridge - White Lake Area Sportfishing Association - \$100,000**

The railroad trestle crossing the White River between the cities of Montague and Whitehall in Muskegon County is now part of the Rails-to-Trails extension under construction. A 244-foot long, 8 foot wide, barrier free fishing bridge will be attached to the downstream side of the trestle.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

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**Purchase of Hydro-Acoustic Sampling Gear - U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division - \$100,000**

Purchase hydro-acoustic sampling gear that will be utilized by numerous research and management agencies to enhance their abilities to conduct prey fish surveys in Lake Michigan and provide critical abundance information to Great Lakes fisheries managers.

**Big Rapids Dam Removal - City of Big Rapids - \$350,000**

Funding for this project will assist in the removal of a remnant of a former hydropower generation dam owned by the city on the Muskegon River in Mecosta County. The dam removal will restore natural stream flow, including restoration of the valuable high-gradient stream habitat, will remove a barrier to fish passage, and will enhance recreational use and aesthetic and ecological value of the river in the vicinity of the project. It will also provide a laboratory to understand the effects of lowhead dam removal, which will yield useful information for the final disposition of an estimated 75,000 dams nationwide.

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### Settlement Access Projects

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Medbery Park	City of Montague	\$101,885	10/10/00
Pentwater	Village of Pentwater	\$594,214	10/31/01
Ludington, South Pier	City of Ludington	\$80,000	6/29/00
Fruitland Public Access	Fruitland Township	\$150,932	7/1/00

### 1998 Pilot Projects

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Sutton's Bay Landing Access Project	Pere Marquette Charter Township	\$209,375	5/16/01
Big South Branch Habitat Improvement Project	Pere Marquette Watershed Council	\$750,000	4/4/02
The Feasibility of Biocide Application in Controlling the Release on Nonindigenous Aquatic Species from Ballast Water	Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Research	\$306,032	8/31/01
Project Fish!	Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife	\$210,620	10/11/00
Fish for All: The Legacy of Lake Michigan Fisheries Policy and Management	Western Michigan University and the Michigan Maritime Museum	\$198,720	5/19/01
Prototype Fishway for Lake Sturgeon	U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division	\$133,452	1/8/02
Investigating Solutions to Early Mortality Syndrome in Lake Michigan	U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division	\$452,000	8/1/01

### 1999 Special Projects

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Development of a Statewide Great Lakes Ecological Information System at State Fish Hatcheries	Michigan State University	\$2,994,696	6/1/02
White Lake Pier Extension	Army Corp of Engineers	\$153,883	1/6/00

## 1999 Access Projects

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Fishing Access Site Strategic Planning	Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority	\$24,771	6/27/00
Lake Betsie Fishing Pier	Village of Elberta	\$186,398	5/19/01
Angler Access Improvement	City of Ludington	\$220,000	6/29/00
Fishing Platform at the Rogers City Boat Harbor	City of Rogers City	\$150,000	7/19/01
Detroit River Fishing Access Feasibility Study	National Wildlife Federation	\$23,640	6/28/00

## 1999 Research Projects

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	COMPLETION DATE
Evaluation of Current Strategies to Recolonize Lake Trout Spawning Reefs in Northern Michigan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$157,360	9/23/02
Molecular Genetic Assessment of Stocking Success and Sources of Natural Lake Trout Recruitment	Michigan State University	\$215,975	11/17/01
Salmonid Spawning Stock Abundance, Recruitment, and Exploitation in the Muskegon River	Michigan State University	\$306,047	7/4/03
Mechanisms Affecting Recruitment of Yellow Perch in Lake Michigan	Illinois Natural History Survey	\$360,000	5/31/03
Effects of Diporeia Decline on Fish Diet, Growth, and Food Web Dynamics in Southeast Lake Michigan	University of Michigan	\$276,868	6/6/03
Studies on the Detection, Transmission, and Development of Renibacterium Salmoninarum Infections in Great Lakes Salmonid Fishes	U.S. Department of the Interior Western Fisheries Research Center	\$599,164	10/13/02
Lake Sturgeon Genetics Standardization Workshop	U.S. Department of the Interior Lower Great Lakes Fishery Research Office	\$6,800	8/24/00
Fourth International Symposium on Sturgeon	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	\$25,000	7/6/02



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As a part of the Ludington Pumped Storage Settlement Agreement, Consumers Energy transferred approximately 10,600 acres of property to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust as compensation for past damages to the fishery caused by the Ludington facility. The proceeds from the sale of the property are invested to generate income for the operation and grant programs of the trust. Of the remaining five parcels of land still owned by the trust, purchase agreements and/or options for sale are being negotiated on four. Only one parcel of less than 35 acres remains to be sold.

Significant portions of the properties sold by the trust are now available for public use within the Huron Manistee National Forest along the Manistee and AuSable rivers. When property adjacent to watercourses was sold to private entities, the trust retained protective conservation easements.



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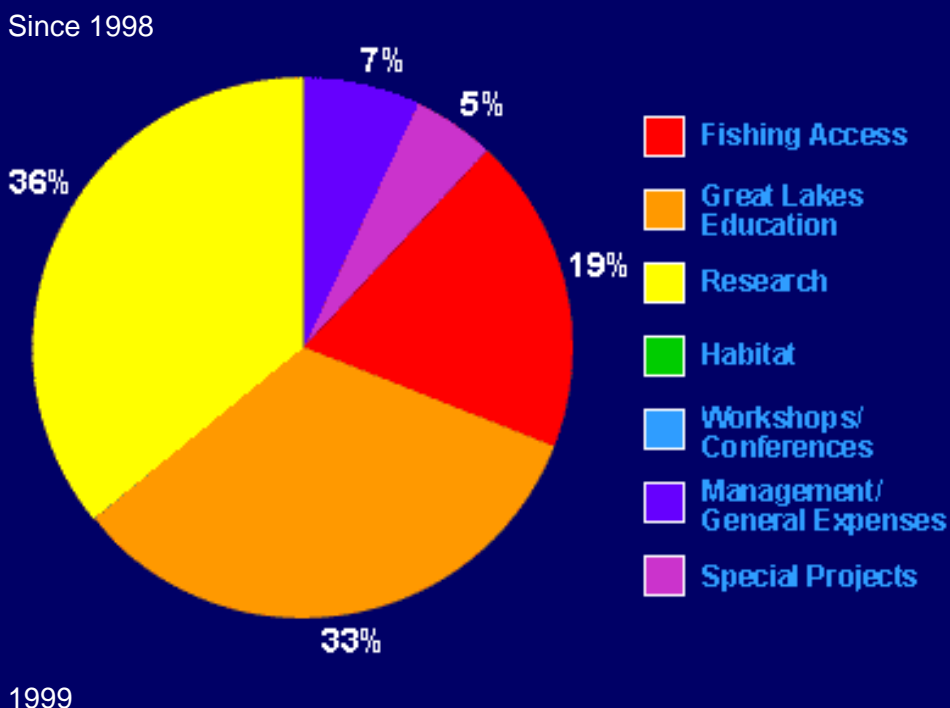
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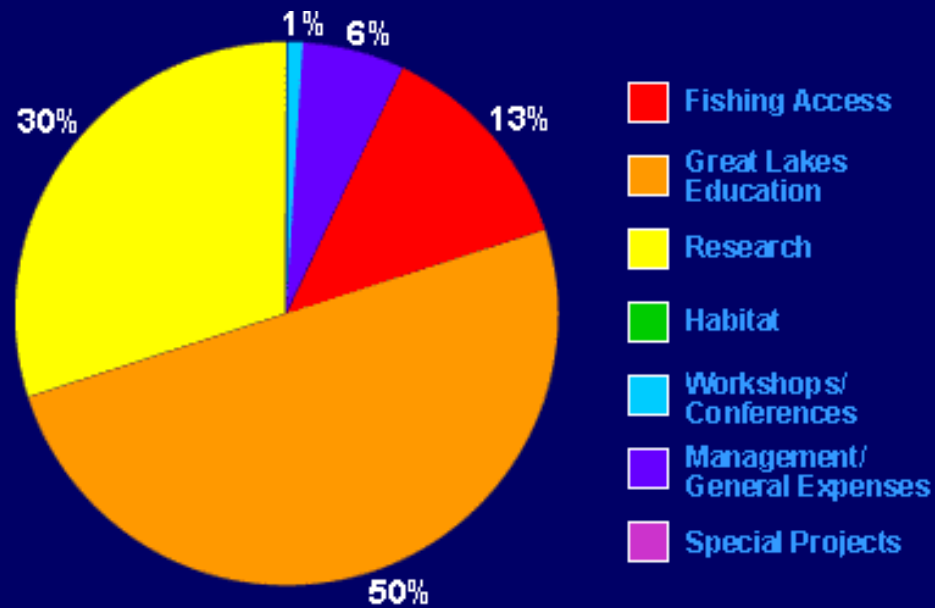
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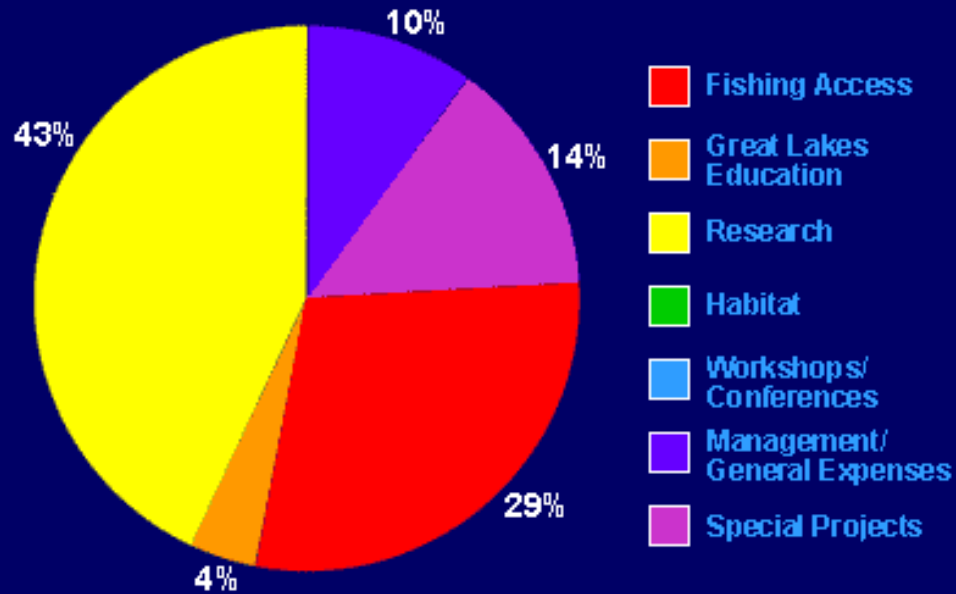
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Category	Since 1998	1998	1999	2000
Fishing Access	\$1,848,872	\$289,375	\$761,992	\$1,086,880
Great Lakes Education	\$3,150,483	\$409,340	\$2,994,696	\$155,787
Research	\$3,365,292	\$891,484	\$1,779,438	\$1,585,854
Habitat	\$0	\$750,000	\$0	\$0
Workshops/Conferences	\$31,800	\$0	\$31,800	\$0
Management/General Expenses	\$691,953	\$263,777	\$339,376	\$352,577
Special Projects	\$512,332			\$512,332
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,600,732</b>	<b>\$2,603,976</b>	<b>\$5,907,302</b>	<b>\$3,693,430</b>





2000



1999 & 2000 Financial Data  
Financial Data Prepared by Plante & Moran, LLC

Assets	12/31/1999	12/31/2000
Cash	\$595	\$486
Mortality compensation receivable	\$2,347,520	\$2,216,579
Investments	\$25,625,056	\$26,835,345
Land	\$997,858	\$947,571
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$28,971,029</b>	<b>\$29,999,981</b>

Liabilities	12/31/1999	12/31/2000
Accounts Payable	\$25,954	\$29,040
Grants Payable	\$5,610,459	\$6,658,931
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$5,636,413</b>	<b>\$6,687,971</b>

Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$20,987,096	\$21,095,428
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$26,623,509	\$27,783,399

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